



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Southern District of New York86 Chambers Street
New York, New York 10007

August 17, 2023

BY ECFHonorable Lewis A. Kaplan
Daniel Patrick Moynihan
United States Courthouse
500 Pearl St.
New York, NY 10007-1312Re: *MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, et al., v. U.S. Dep't of Health and Human Services, et al.*, 21 Civ. 475 (LAK)

Dear Judge Kaplan:

This Office represents the defendant federal agencies and government officials sued in their official capacities (together, the "government") in this action. I write jointly with the plaintiffs' counsel to provide a status update and to respectfully request an extension of the existing stay of all proceedings.

Since the stay was last extended, the government has received public comments on its notice of proposed rulemaking. *See Partnerships With Faith-Based and Neighborhood Organizations*, 88 Fed. Reg. 2395 (Jan. 13, 2023), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/13/2022-28376/partnerships-with-faith-based-and-neighborhood-organizations>.¹ The government anticipates publishing a final rule by January 2024. *See* <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaViewRule?pubId=202304&RIN=0503-AA73>.

In light of these developments, the parties respectfully request that the current stay of all proceedings, *see* ECF Nos. 72, 76, 78, 80, be extended from August 17, 2023, through and including January 31, 2024. The parties further propose that they file a status report by the same date that proposes any next steps in the litigation.

SO ORDERED

¹ A separate page for each agency with posted public comments is also on regulations.gov. For example, the Department of Justice page is at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/DOJ-OAG-2023-0002-0001>.

9/20/23

Honorable Lewis A. Kaplan
August 17, 2023

Page 2

We thank the Court for its attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

DAMIAN WILLIAMS
United States Attorney for the
Southern District of New York

By: /s/ Peter Aronoff
PETER ARONOFF
Assistant United States Attorney
Telephone: (212) 637-2697
Facsimile: (212) 637-2717
E-mail: peter.aronoff@usdoj.gov

Counsel for the government